

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks are submitted in response to the Notice of Allowability issued on May 27, 2005 in connection with the above-identified patent application, and are being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for a response by the Notice of Allowability.

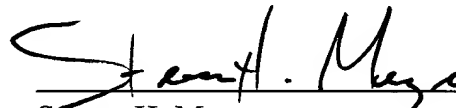
Claims 40 and 46 are pending in the present application, and have been allowed. Claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 31, and 32, have been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

In a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner in charge of the above-identified matter on or about May 20, 2005, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement by identifying two groups: I - with claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 31, and 32, and II - with claims 40 and 46. After due consideration, the undersigned orally elected group II for further prosecution in connection with the present application. Applicants hereby affirm such election of group II without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application to further prosecute the invention of groups I. Consistent with such election, and to move the present application to allowance, Applicants have canceled un-elected claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 31, and 32.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including allowed claims 40 and 46, is in condition for issuance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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